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# PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS

VOL. XXVIII.

MARCH 28, 1913.

No. 13.

## TRACHOMA.

### AN INVESTIGATION OF ITS OCCURRENCE IN TULARE COUNTY, CAL.

By M. W. GLOVER, Surgeon, United States Public Health Service.

In the survey I considered only those cases to be trachoma that showed evidence of a chronic inflammation, characterized by hyperplasia, true granulations (not follicles), and scar-tissue formation.

The examination of school children may be thus summarized:

	Pupils.	Cases of trachoma.	Cases of folliculosis.
Porterville:			
Grammar school.....	237	0	15
High school.....	38	0	1
Total.....	275	0	16
Visalia:			
Tipton Lindsay School.....	284	1	19
High school.....	165	0	4
Washington School.....	242	1	32
Lincoln School.....	203	1	45
Total.....	894	3	100
Country schools:			
Outside Creek.....	35	1	9
Farmersville.....	81	1 <sup>1</sup>	15
Union.....	36	1	5
Deep Creek.....	19	0	1
East Lynn.....	32	0	4
Total.....	203	3	34
Corcoran:			
Grammar school.....	106	0	11

<sup>1</sup> Doubtful, 1.

It developed during this examination that there was considerable folliculosis among these children and that the more aggravated cases had been suspected of being trachoma.

In all, 1,478 school children were examined and five positive cases and one doubtful case of trachoma and 161 cases of folliculosis were found.

Of the cases of trachoma found in Visalia and vicinity the one in the Tipton Lindsay School was a Chinese boy, a son of a native, born

in China, I was informed. He was 11 years old and in the second grade. This case I believe might be regarded as an imported one. This class of aliens, sons of natives, are not subject to medical inspection at the immigrant station. The case of trachoma diagnosed at the Washington School was a girl, 10 years old, in the second grade, who had been to school but one day. She had been in the county about a year, and stated that she had "granulated lids" in Missouri, whence she came to Tulare County.

The case at the Lincoln School was a girl, 9 years old, a native of Tulare County and never out of the district. She was one of five children, none of whom other than herself had trachoma. The origin of this case could not be traced.

In the Outside Creek School a similar case was observed, a boy, 11 years old, a native of Tulare County, whose brother, also examined, had not trachoma.

In the Farmersville School was observed the doubtful case, a boy, 13 years old, who had been three years in Tulare County, coming from Texas. This was one of those cases that require treatment to confirm a diagnosis.

In the Union School the case of trachoma was a young Mexican, 10 years old, from whom nothing could be learned, as he spoke little English. He lived on a farm near Farmersville. This case was probably imported, either directly or indirectly.

Of the six cases of trachoma, counting the doubtful case as one of trachoma, two only were natives of the county, the other four being imported cases. It appears that the disease has not spread to any extent.

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## CONTAMINATED VEGETABLES.

### THE USE OF NIGHT SOIL IN THE VEGETABLE GARDEN AS A POSSIBLE DISSEMINATOR OF DISEASE.

By J. D. LONG, Surgeon, United States Public Health Service.

It is customary in investigations to discover the causes operative in the production of outbreaks of typhoid fever, to inquire, among other things, as to whether persons who have been attacked by the disease have used fresh or uncooked vegetables as part of their diet during the two or three weeks prior to the onset of the disease.

The reason for making such inquiry is that in some localities vegetable gardens have been handled in such an insanitary manner that they have become a danger to the community, not only for the reason that typhoid fever can be spread through the agency of vegetables, but because other serious diseases, such as amebic dysentery and bacillary dysentery, may be transmitted in the same manner.